

started the Homes for All Coalition. The Homes for All Coalition is a statewide coalition that works to provide safe, stable, and affordable housing for people across all income levels. From working to increase rental subsidies, to improving infrastructure at manufactured housing parks, and resources for first time homebuyers, Homes for All is tackling the diverse range of housing issues facing Minnesotans.

Chip is widely known for his encyclopedic knowledge of federal and state housing programs, sophisticated housing finance tools and their history. Policymakers and elected officials have often drawn on Chip's wealth of knowledge and expertise in the affordable housing field. Many have cheekily quipped, "before 'Google' there was Chip Halbach."

Chip Halbach's leadership has helped shape legislation, provided education, and secured money to create safe, decent, affordable places for families and individuals to live. His steady leadership leaves the Minnesota Housing Partnership poised to move forward in tackling our affordable housing crisis. I want to thank Mr. Halbach for all his years of service. His presence will be missed, but his contributions will not be forgotten.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. LAURA DIXIE

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Laura Dixie, one of Tallahassee, Florida's foot soldiers in the Civil Rights movement, who passed away on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the age of 92. Laura Dixie was a civil rights trailblazer, and played a crucial role in the Reverend C. K. Steele's quest to desegregate Tallahassee's public transportation system in 1956. She also worked with Reverend Steel and others in the original 1962 lawsuit calling for the desegregation of Leon County Schools.

Laura saw early in life that obtaining civil rights was going to be challenging. One of her favorite stories was about going downtown one day with her parents and seeing water fountains marked for "Whites only, and Colored only."

Life took Laura from sampling water on a dare, from a segregated Whites only fountain inside the Leon County Courthouse, "to see if it was sweeter;" to playing a pivotal role in the Tallahassee Bus Boycott. She traveled during troubled times to Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia to participate in Voter Registration drives; to seeing a black man elected President of the United States. It was one of her proudest moments to see President Obama in the White House.

In the early 1950's, Laura joined her husband Samuel L. Dixie at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, where together they worked closely with the church and in the community to promote Civil Rights. Her involvement in Tallahassee's Civil Rights movement went along with her active membership in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Inter-Civic Council in Tallahassee and the NAACP, of which she was a life member.

At the time of her death, Laura lived in the house that she and her husband owned since

the mid50s on Tanner Drive in Jake Gaither Park. They often found room in their house to help Florida A&M University students in need of a place to live when their funds were depleted.

Mr. Speaker, Laura Dixie was simply a trailblazer and an icon, who fearlessly battled the horrors of being a black woman in the south during desegregation. Laura Dixie's spirit and attitude will be truly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, in connection with official business, I was unable to attend votes on November 15, 2017.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 635; and YEA on Roll Call No. 636.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF CARL BURGER

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Carl Burger of Williamsburg, Ohio.

In 1917, the first World War still burned in Europe. But in small town America, William and Emily Burger were welcoming Carl Burger to the world, and to Ohio. With the exception of several exceptional years in service to his country, Carl has lived in Williamsburg, Ohio for his entire life.

On the occasion of Carl's birthday, I'd like to tell you a bit about where one hundred years of a remarkable life has taken him.

In Williamsburg, Carl was many things. A formidable basketball player, a talented drummer, an employee in the family meat market. He left Williamsburg for the first time when he volunteered for the army in 1941, before the United States entered the Second World War. He was months away from completing his service, and returning to Ohio, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Carl knew in that moment that he'd be in the war for its duration.

I cannot speak directly for Carl's wartime experience. But his story is one of humanity, humility, and humor. He served as 3rd Infantry medic in North Africa, and throughout the Italian campaign. While serving on the front lines, he had more than a few close calls with torpedoes, artillery, and enemy patrols. Carl is keenly aware of a sense of luck, or a touch of providence, that guided him through these incidents largely unharmed.

While Carl surely saw enough of the war to last him a lifetime, he also witnessed great bravery, and he rose to great bravery in return. He was awarded the Bronze Star for directing the evacuation of 58 wounded GI's from the front lines of Italy. His experiences taught him that courage can be found in funny places—a shared bottle of contraband whiskey, or an unexpected foxhole visit from a general.

Ultimately, like every veteran, Carl's service is only a part of his story. He was still a young

man when he returned to Williamsburg. He returned to his father's meat market, and the town band. He married and had children. He has a long history of participation in fraternal organizations like the Masons, and youth service organizations like the International Order of Rainbows for Girls.

His talent as a grill-master is legendary, as is his generosity and spirit.

Mr. Speaker, Carl Burger is a good man, and he's lived one hundred years worth celebrating. I hope you'll all join me in wishing him the happiest of birthdays.

HONORING MR. ELIOT SEIDE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Eliot Seide, for his thirty-eight years of public service to the citizens of the Fifth Congressional District, to the 43,000 members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 5, and to the great state of Minnesota. Mr. Seide was the first in his family to attend college, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from New York University. In graduate school, Mr. Seide realized that he was tired of talking about making a difference and decided it was time to take action.

Mr. Seide's father Julius, was a leader of the Printers Union in New York City. Eliot followed in his father's footsteps when he went to work for AFSCME and its President, Jerry Wurf, in 1979. Mr. Seide came to Minnesota in 1980. He was central to helping state employees in AFSCME Council 6 wage a successful strike in 1981. He worked to strengthen AFSCME in local government in the Twin Cities metropolitan area by helping form AFSCME Council 14 in 1982. Over the next 12 years, Mr. Seide was instrumental in building power for working people in Minnesota and improving the quality of public services in Minnesota through a strong and progressive labor movement.

In his thirty-eight year career with AFSCME, Mr. Seide has fought hard for a better Minnesota for everyone. He worked his way up in the union, serving in many capacities as field representative, legislative director, international area director, and as Executive Director of both AFSCME Council 14 and AFSCME Council 5.

In 2004, Mr. Seide became the executive director of AFSCME Council 5, one of the largest unions in the state of Minnesota. In 2006, Mr. Seide was also elected AFSCME International vice president. Governor Mark Dayton has shared these words about Mr. Seide: "He's a tireless advocate for his members, and he has that New York edge to his style but believes fiercely in doing what's right for his members."

The state of Minnesota will long remember the work of Mr. Eliot Seide as a leader of not only Council 5, but for all Minnesotans around issues of fair taxes, decent wages, responsible investments in transportation, clean water, a strong education system, and healthy families. He believes deeply that we all do better when we all do better. I thank Mr. Seide for his many years of service to Minnesotans.